England - C of E. - Convocation - Province of Canterbury.

The Humble

ADDRESS

OF THE

ARCH-BISHOP,

President of the Convocation of the Province of *CANTERBURY*;

AND OF THE

Biſhops, and Clergy, of the ſame Province,

In CONVOCATION Aſſembled;

PRESENTED TO

HIS MAJESTY

At St. *JAMES*'s,

On *Wedneſday* the Thirty firſt Day of *October*, 1722.

Together with

His Majeſty's

MOST GRACIOUS

ANSWER.

LONDON,

Printed by *John Baſkett*, Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, And by the Aſſigns of *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, deceas'd. 1722.

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty,

The Humble ADDRESS of the Arch-Biſhop, Preſident of the Convocation of the Province of *Canterbury*; the Biſhops and Clergy of the ſame Province, in Convocation Aſſembled.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Archbiſhop, Biſhops, and Clergy, of the Province of *Canterbury* in Convocation Aſſembled, beg leave, with the greateſt Sincerity, and Zeal, to expreſs our Abhorrence of the Traiterous Conſpiracy, which Your Majeſty hath ſo happily Diſcovered, againſt Your Sacred Perſon and Government. A Conſpiracy ſo Unnatural in it ſelf, ſo Execrable in its Circumſtances, and which, had it ſucceeded, muſt have been ſo Terrible and Fatal in its Effects, that the leaſt Thought of it fills our Souls with Horror at the extreme Wickedneſs of the Deſign; and with the utmoſt Deteſtation of all thoſe Deſperate Men, who could engage in the Subverſion of Your Majeſty's Government; and, by that, in the utter and unavoidable Ruin of the Religion, and Liberties, of their Native Country.

We Congratulate Your Majeſty upon the Diſcoveries already made of this barbarous Undertaking: And we Earneſtly beſeech God ſo to direct Your Counſells, that theſe Depths of Satan, this Myſtery of Iniquity, and all the Springs of it, may be traced and clearly laid open; And that You may be able not only to work our Deliverance at this Time, but, by rooting out the Seeds of Diſloyalty and Rebellion, to Secure and Convey our Happy Eſtabliſhment to all future Generations.

Agreeable to theſe Profeſſions, and Prayers, ſhall be our Practice, and Behaviour, in our ſeveral Stations. The more Induſtrious we ſee Your Enemies in ſowing Sedition, and labouring to Undermine and Deſtroy our Proteſtant Settlement in Your Royal Family; the more Diligent will we be in Inſtilling into the Minds of Your People the Principles of Fidelity, and Loyalty, to Your Majeſty's Perſon, and Government. Nor will we be the Teachers only, but the Examples, of Both; in a juſt Senſe of our Duty to God, who has appointed us the Preachers of Obedience to Governors for Conſcience ſake; of Gratitude to Your Majeſty, under whoſe Auſpicious Reign we Enjoy ſo many and great Bleſſings; and of the Obligations of our

own Oaths, by which we have Abjured the Pretender to Your Crown, and ſolemnly Bound our ſelves, before God and the World, to Defend Your Majeſty to the Utmoſt of our Power, againſt all Traiterous Conſpiracies and Attempts; and to Secure the Crown of theſe Realms to Your Majeſty and Your Heirs: And we are ſenſible that we ſhould be the moſt abandon'd of all Mankind, if we, whoſe Duty it is to inculcate into others a Religious Regard to Their Oaths, ſhould not take the utmoſt Care, that all our Words, and Actions, be ſtrictly Conformable to our Own.

The Concern for our Civil Liberties, and Legal Rights, which Experience has taught us to be Precarious under a Popiſh Prince, is common to Us with the reſt of our Fellow-Subjects: But as Religion is our more immediate Care, under Your Majeſty, our Supreme Governor and moſt Gracious Protector; we Dread to think, how ſoon the whole Work of the Reformation would be deſtroyed, and Popery become the Religion, not of theſe Kingdoms only, but of all *Europe*; if it ſhould pleaſe God for our Sins to give Succeſs to theſe Deſperate Attempts: Being fully convinced that a greater Deluſion cannot poſſeſs the Hearts of Men, than to hope for any thing but utter Deſtruction to a Proteſtant Church, under a Popiſh Prince, who muſt think himſelf obliged in Conſcience to Deſtroy it.

As the preſent Happy Settlement of the Crown is our only Security, under God, againſt theſe terrible Calamities to Church, and State; May He evermore protect Your Sacred Perſon, and thoſe of Your Royal Family, againſt all the Deſigns and Conſpiracies of Wicked Men: May Your Government be Peaceable, and Proſperous; and Your Reign Long: And may You never want an Heir to ſit upon Your Throne, who, after Your Example, ſhall be the Defender of our Faith, the Protector of our Church, and a Bulwark to the Reformed Religion, againſt all the Efforts of Popery and Superſtition.

His MAJESTY's moſt Gracious ANSWER.

I Thank you kindly for this Loyal and Dutiful Addreſs. The Zeal you expreſs for the Safety of My Perſon and Government, and your juſt Abhorrence of the Traiterous Deſigns that have been carried on againſt Both, give Me great Satisfaction.

And as I doubt not but your joint Endeavours will, by the Bleſſing of God, very much contribute to the Support of Our Happy Conſtitution; ſo you may be fully aſſured, that I ſhall do every thing on My Part to Encourage the Clergy, *and to Maintain the* Church *of* England, *as by Law Eſtabliſhed, in a Safe and Flouriſhing Condition.*

FINIS.